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Analytical Paper

## Profiles of Ethnic Communities in Canada

# The Haitian Community in Canada

2001

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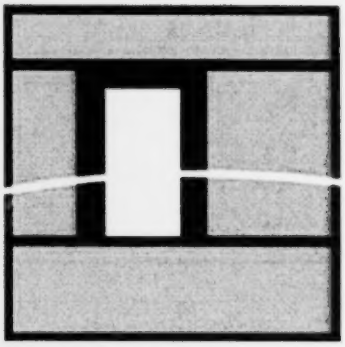

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## Profiles of Ethnic Communities in Canada

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| | |
|---|---|
| . | not available for any reference period |
| .. | not available for a specific reference period |
| ... | not applicable |
| 0 | true zero or a value rounded to zero |
| $0^s$ | value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded |
| $^p$ | preliminary |
| $^r$ | revised |
| x | suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act |
| $^E$ | use with caution |
| F | too unreliable to be published |

# Table of contents

**Page**

**Information on the series** ..... **6**
**Highlights** ..... **7**
**Introduction** ..... **8**
**The Haitian Community in Canada** ..... **9**
A unique community ..... 9
The majority are foreign-born ..... 9
Most live in Quebec ..... 10
Age distribution ..... 10
More women than men ..... 11
Almost all can converse in an official language ..... 11
Religion ..... 12
Family status ..... 12
Education ..... 13
Employment ..... 14
Unemployment ..... 15
Income ..... 15
Many with low incomes ..... 16
Most feel a sense of belonging to Canada ..... 16
Summary table ..... 17

## Information on the series

This report was prepared by the Target Groups Project of Statistics Canada. This report is part of a series of profiles which will include profiles of the East Indian, Filipino, Jamaican, Japanese, Korean, Lebanese and Vietnamese communities in Canada, as well as profiles of Canadians of African, Arab, Caribbean, Latin American, South Asian, West Asian and Chinese origins.

## Ordering print copies

To order print copies of this profile or any of the other profiles in this series, contact the Multiculturalism Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage at 1-888-77MULTI 1-888-776-8584 or 819-953-1970. The report is also available free of charge on the Statistics Canada website at: http://www.statcan.ca

## Questions or comments

For questions or comments about the content of this report, please contact Statistics Canada at 613-951-2603; fax 613-951-0387 or e-mail lindcol@statcan.ca.

## Highlights

- The Haitian community in Canada is the 10th largest non-European population group in the country. In 2001, just over 82,000 people of Haitian descent lived in Canada.

- The Haitian community in Canada is highly concentrated in the province of Quebec. In 2001, 90% of people who reported Haitian origin lived in Quebec. In fact, the vast majority of all Haitians living in Canada (83%) live in Montreal.

- The Haitian population in Canada is relatively young. Indeed, in 2001, almost half of all Canadians of Haitian descent, versus about a third of the overall population, were under the age of 25. In contrast, Haitians are only about as half as likely as those in the overall population to be seniors.

- Almost all Canadians of Haitian origin can carry on a conversation in at least one official language. In fact, in 2001, only 2% could not converse in either English or French. The Haitian population is also unique among new Canadians in that they are one of the few groups in which the majority speak French. That year, 54% of Canadians of Haitian origin could carry on a conversation in French only, while 42% were bilingual.

- Canadians of Haitian origin are considerably less likely than other people to be married; they are also less likely to be living in common-law relationships. At the same time, people of Haitian origin are considerably more likely than the overall population to be lone parents. In 2001, 20% of Canadians of Haitian origin aged 25 and over were lone parents, compared with 6% of all Canadians in this age range.

- Canadians of Haitian origin are slightly less likely than those in the overall population to have university degrees, while they are somewhat more likely than the rest of the population to have attended or completed some form of non-university post-secondary training such as a community college degree program.

- Canadians of Haitian origin are somewhat less likely to be employed than adults in the rest of the population. In 2001, 57% of Canadians of Haitian origin aged 15 and over were employed, compared with 62% of all Canadian adults. At the same time, labour force participants of Haitian origin are more than twice as likely as those in the overall population to be unemployed.

- The incomes of Canadians of Haitian origin are generally lower than those of the rest of the population. In 2000, the average income from all sources for Canadians of Haitian origin aged 15 and over was just under $20,000, almost one third less than the figure for the overall population.

- Canadians of Haitian origin are much more likely to be classified as living in low-income situations than the overall population. In 2000, 39% of the Haitian community had low incomes, versus 16% of the total Canadian population. Children of Haitian origin living in Canada are especially likely to be members of low-income families; that year 47% of children of Haitian origin under the age of 15 lived in families with low incomes, compared with 19% of all children in Canada.

## Introduction

This report describes the basic social and economic characteristics of people of the Haitian community in Canada. It is part of a series of profiles of the country's major non-European ethnic groups.

The information in this profile is taken mostly from the 2001 Census of Canada, the most recent source of census data. Statistics Canada conducts the Census every five years. One in five households receives a long questionnaire that asks household residents to indicate the ethnic or cultural groups to which their ancestors belonged. This report is based on people who reported they had Haitian origin. People are counted as being of Haitian origin if they listed Haitian as the only ethnic or cultural group of their ancestors or if they listed Haitian along with other ethnic and cultural groups.

This publication also uses information from the Ethnic Diversity Survey (EDS), which was conducted in 2002 by Statistics Canada in partnership with the Department of Canadian Heritage. The EDS surveyed more than 42,000 Canadians over the age of 15. The objectives of the EDS were to understand more about how people's backgrounds affect their participation in Canadian society, economy and culture, and how Canadians from different ethnic backgrounds report and describe their ethnicity.

Although the EDS and the Census provide very useful information, caution should be exercised in making direct comparisons between groups, particularly as they relate to causal implications, because the data have not been adjusted to take into account differences in age, education, length of time in Canada and other factors.

This profile is based on the Census population, which includes the following groups:

- Canadian citizens (by birth or by naturalization) and landed immigrants with a usual place of residence in Canada (including those who are abroad, either on a military base or attached to a diplomatic mission; or who are at sea or in port aboard merchant vessels under Canadian registry).
- Persons with a usual place of residence in Canada who are claiming refugee status and members of their families living with them.
- Persons with a usual place of residence in Canada who hold:
    - a student authorization (student visa or student permit);
    - an employment authorization; or
    - a Minister's permit (including extensions);
    - and members of their families living with them.

For the purpose of this profile, the term "Canadians" includes all persons with a usual place of residence in Canada, regardless of their citizenship status.

# The Haitian Community in Canada

## A unique community

Canadians of Haitian origin[1] make up one of the largest non-European ethnic groups in Canada. In 2001, there were just over 82,000 people of Haitian origin living in Canada making them the 10th largest non-European community in the country, after Chinese, East Indian, Filipino, Jamaican, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Korean, Iranian and Japanese.

**Table 1**
**Selected ethnic groups in Canada, other than English, French and Canadian, 2001**

| | Total population | Multiple responses | Single responses | As a proportion of the total Canadian population |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | thousands | | percentage |
| Scottish | 4,157.2 | 3,550.0 | 607.2 | 14.0 |
| Irish | 3,822.7 | 3,325.8 | 496.9 | 12.9 |
| German | 2,742.8 | 2,037.2 | 705.6 | 9.3 |
| Italian | 1,270.4 | 544.1 | 726.3 | 4.3 |
| Chinese | 1,094.7 | 158.4 | 936.2 | 3.7 |
| Ukrainian | 1,071.1 | 744.9 | 326.2 | 3.6 |
| Dutch | 923.3 | 607.1 | 316.2 | 3.1 |
| Polish | 817.1 | 556.7 | 260.4 | 2.8 |
| East Indian | 713.3 | 131.7 | 581.7 | 2.4 |
| **Haitian** | **82.4** | **11.7** | **70.8** | **0.3** |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada.

In recent years, there has been little growth in the size of the Haitian community in Canada. Indeed, between 1996 and 2001, the number of people who said they had Haitian origin actually declined by almost 2%. In the same period, the overall population of Canada grew by 4%.

Most Canadians of Haitian origin say they have only Haitian origins. In 2001, 86% of all those who reported Haitian origin said they had only Haitian roots, while 14% said they also had other ethnic origins. In contrast, almost 40% of the overall Canadian population has multiple ethnic roots.

## The majority are foreign-born

The majority of the Haitian population in Canada is foreign-born. Of Canadians of Haitian origin living in Canada in 2001, 57% were born outside the country. This compares with 18% of the overall population which is foreign-born.

As well, the majority of immigrants of Haitian origin living in Canada arrived in the country within the past three decades. Of foreign-born Haitians living in Canada in 2001, 33% had arrived in the previous decade, while 30% immigrated in the 1980s, and another 33% arrived in Canada between 1971 and 1981. In contrast, only 5% of Canadians of Haitian origin came to Canada before 1971.

1. All statistical information in this publication referring to Haitian, the Haitian community, Canadians of Haitian origin or people of Haitian origin denotes people who reported Haitian either alone or in combination with other origins in response to the question on ethnic origin in the 2001 Census or 2002 Ethnic Diversity Survey.

## Most live in Quebec

The Haitian community in Canada is concentrated largely in Quebec. In 2001, 90% of people who reported Haitian origins lived in Quebec, while Ontario was home to 8% and 1% lived in each of British Columbia and Alberta. That year, there were almost 75,000 people of Haitian origin living in Quebec, where they made up about 1% of the total provincial population. At the same time, people of Haitian descent represented only a very small fraction of the populations of all other provinces and territories.

**Table 2**

**The Haitian population in Canada, by province and territory, 2001**

| | Total Haitian population | The provincial/territorial population | As a proportion of the total Haitian population in Canada |
|---|---|---|---|
| | thousands | | percentage |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Nova Scotia | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| New Brunswick | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Quebec | 74.4 | 1.0 | 90.4 |
| Ontario | 6.5 | 0.1 | 7.9 |
| Manitoba | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Saskatchewan | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Alberta | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.6 |
| British Columbia | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| Yukon | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Northwest Territories | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Nunavut | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Canada** | **82.4** | **0.3** | **100.0** |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada.

In fact, the large majority of Canadians of Haitian origin live in Montreal. In 2001, 83% of Canada's Haitian community made Montreal their home. That year, there were almost 70,000 Canadians of Haitian descent living in Montreal, where they made up 2% of the metropolitan area's overall population.

## Age distribution

Canadians of Haitian origin are somewhat younger on average than the overall population. In 2001, children under the age of 15 represented 28% of the Haitian community, compared with 19% of the overall population. At the same time, 20% of the Haitian community, versus only 13% of the overall population, were aged 15 to 24.

In contrast, Canadians of Haitian origin are considerably less likely than those in the overall population to be over the age of 25. In 2001, 27% of the Haitian community, compared with 31% of the overall population, were aged 25 to 44. At the same time, 20% of Canadians of Haitian origin were between 45 and 64 years old whereas this was the case for 24% of the total population.

Seniors make up a particularly small share of the Haitian population living in Canada. In 2001, only 5% of the Haitian community were aged 65 or over, while 12% of all Canadians were seniors.

**Table 3**
**Age distribution of the Haitian community and overall Canadian population, 2001**

| | Haitian community | | | Total Canadian population | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| | | | percentage | | | |
| **Age group** | | | | | | |
| Under 15 | 30.9 | 26.3 | 28.4 | 20.2 | 18.6 | 19.4 |
| 15 to 24 | 21.2 | 18.0 | 19.5 | 14.0 | 13.0 | 13.4 |
| 25 to 44 | 25.1 | 28.8 | 27.1 | 30.4 | 30.6 | 30.5 |
| 45 to 64 | 19.0 | 20.0 | 19.6 | 24.4 | 24.4 | 24.4 |
| 65 and over | 3.8 | 6.8 | 5.4 | 10.9 | 13.4 | 12.2 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** |
| **Total population in thousands** | **37.9** | **44.4** | **82.4** | **14,564.3** | **15,074.8** | **29,639.0** |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada.

## More women than men

As with the overall population, women make up the majority of the Haitian community in Canada. In 2001, 54% of all Canadians with Haitian origins were female, while this was the case for 51% of all Canadians.

Women also account for a particularly large share of seniors of Haitian origin. In 2001, 68% of people aged 65 and over of Haitian origin were women, well above the figure in the overall population, where women made up 56% of seniors.

## Almost all can converse in an official language

Almost all Canadians of Haitian origin can carry on a conversation in at least one official language.[2] In 2001, 98% of Canadians of Haitian origin could converse in either English or French, while only 2% were unable to carry on a conversation in either of the two official languages.

The Haitian population is also unique among new Canadians in that they are one of the few groups in which the majority speak French. In 2001, 54% of Canadians of Haitian origin could carry on a conversation in French only, while 42% were bilingual. At the same time, only 2% could speak only English.

French is also the mother tongue[3] of most Canadians of Haitian origin, although a substantial share of those in the Haitian community in Canada has a mother tongue other than English or French. In 2001, 52% of the Haitian community said that French was their mother tongue, while 37% reported that their mother tongue was a non-official language.

Similarly, the majority of Canadians of Haitian origin speak French most often at home. In 2001, 69% of those who reported they had Haitian origins said that they spoke French most often at home, while another 11% spoke French combined with either English or another language. At the same time, 14% spoke a non-official language most often at home.

2. English and French are recognized as Canada's official languages in the *Official Languages Act* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

3. A mother tongue is the language that a person learns first in childhood and that they still understand.

Relatively few Canadians of Haitian origin speak a language other than English or French on the job. In 2001, just 2% of all Canadians of Haitian origin spoke a non-official language at work, either by itself or in combination with English or French. The large majority of employed people of Haitian origin, 73%, spoke French at work most often, while another 13% spoke French combined with English or a non-official language while on the job.

## Religion

The majority of the Haitian community in Canada is Catholic. In 2001, 59% of Canadians of Haitian origin reported they were Catholic, while 35% belonged to a Protestant or other Christian denomination. At the same time, relatively few Canadians of Haitian origin said that they have no religious affiliation. That year, just 6% said they had no religious affiliation, compared with 17% of the overall population.

## Family status

Canadians of Haitian origin are less likely than other people to be married. In 2001, just 43% of the Haitian population aged 25 and over were married, compared with 59% of all Canadians in this age range. Canadians of Haitian origin are also less likely than other Canadians to live in common-law relationships. That year, 7% of Haitian origin aged 25 and over were living common-law, compared with 10% of their counterparts in the overall population.

**Table 4**
**Family status of the Haitian community and overall population aged 15 and over, by sex, 2001**

| | Haitian community | | | Total Canadian population | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| | | | percentage | | | |
| Married | 51.4 | 36.3 | 42.7 | 61.4 | 56.4 | 58.8 |
| Living common-law | 9.4 | 5.1 | 6.9 | 11.1 | 9.4 | 10.3 |
| Lone parent | 5.4 | 31.0 | 20.2 | 2.4 | 9.7 | 6.2 |
| Child living at home | 10.0 | 6.0 | 7.6 | 6.1 | 3.2 | 4.6 |
| Living with relatives | 5.2 | 8.9 | 7.3 | 1.8 | 2.8 | 2.3 |
| Living with non-relatives | 5.3 | 2.3 | 3.6 | 4.2 | 2.7 | 3.4 |
| Living alone | 13.4 | 10.5 | 11.8 | 12.9 | 15.6 | 14.3 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada.

People of Haitian origin are considerably more likely than the overall population to be lone parents. In 2001, 20% of Canadians of Haitian origin aged 25 and over were lone parents, compared with 6% of people in the overall population in this age range. As with the overall population, women with Haitian roots make up the large majority of lone parents. In the Haitian community, for example, women represented 89% of all lone parents that year, while the figure in the overall population was 81%. In fact, over 30% of all women of Haitian descent aged 25 and over living in Canada were lone parents, whereas this was the case for only 10% of all Canadian women in this age range.

Canadians of Haitian origin are somewhat less likely than other adult Canadians to live alone. In 2001, 12% of the Haitian population aged 25 and over lived alone, compared with 14% of all Canadians in this age range.

Seniors of Haitian origin in Canada are particularly less likely to live alone. In 2001, 19% of Canadians of Haitian origin aged 65 and over lived alone, compared with 29% of all seniors. In contrast, Canadian seniors of Haitian origin are much more likely than other seniors to live with members of their extended family. That year, 32% of seniors of Haitian origin lived with relatives, such as the family of a son or daughter, compared with only 5% of all Canadian seniors.

## Education

Canadians of Haitian origin are slightly less likely than those in the overall population to have university degrees. In 2001, 12% of Canadians of Haitian origin aged 15 and over were university graduates, compared with 15% of the overall adult population.

**Table 5**
**Educational attainment of the Haitian community and overall Canadian population aged 15 and over, by sex, 2001**

| | Haitian community | | | Total Canadian population | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| | percentage | | | | | |
| Less than high school | 31.7 | 34.7 | 33.4 | 31.4 | 31.1 | 31.3 |
| High school graduate | 11.4 | 10.8 | 11.1 | 13.1 | 15.1 | 14.1 |
| Some postsecondary | 14.5 | 11.4 | 12.8 | 10.7 | 11.0 | 10.8 |
| Trades certificate/diploma | 10.0 | 11.1 | 10.6 | 14.1 | 7.8 | 10.9 |
| College graduate | 14.2 | 16.8 | 15.7 | 12.5 | 17.3 | 15.0 |
| University certificate/diploma below bachelor's degree | 4.4 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 2.5 |
| Bachelor's degree | 9.3 | 8.6 | 8.9 | 10.6 | 10.6 | 10.6 |
| Post-graduate degree | 4.4 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 5.4 | 4.2 | 4.8 |
| Total with university degree | 13.8 | 11.2 | 12.4 | 16.0 | 14.9 | 15.4 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada.

In contrast, Canadians of Haitian origin are somewhat more likely than the rest of the population to have attended or completed some form of non-university post-secondary training, including community college. In 2001, 20% of all those with Haitian roots aged 15 and over, compared with 18% of their counterparts in the overall population, were either college graduates or had university certificates or diplomas below a bachelor's degree.

Canadians of Haitian origin who have post-secondary qualifications represent a relatively high proportion of all Canadians who are trained in health and related technologies. People of Haitian origin are also more likely to hold degrees in the social sciences. In contrast, relatively few Canadians of Haitian origin with post-secondary education have degrees in highly technical fields such as engineering and the applied sciences.

As in the overall population, men of Haitian origin are somewhat more likely than Haitian women to be university graduates. In 2001, 14% of men of Haitian origin living in Canada had university degrees, compared with 11% of their female counterparts. In contrast, Haitian females are more likely than men to have college diplomas. That year, 17% of women of Haitian descent aged 15 and over living in Canada had a community college diploma, compared with 14% of Haitian males in this age range.

Young people of Haitian origin are somewhat more likely than other young Canadians to be attending school. In 2001, 66% of the Haitian community aged 15 to 24 was enrolled in a full-time educational program, compared with 57% of all Canadians in this age group. As with their counterparts in the overall population, young women of Haitian origin are more likely than young men of Haitian origin to attend school full-time. That year, 68% of women aged 15 to 24 of Haitian origin were in school full-time, compared with 63% of their male counterparts.

## Employment

Canadians of Haitian origin are somewhat less likely to be employed than adults in the rest of the population. In 2001, 57% of people with Haitian origin aged 15 and over were employed, compared with 62% of all Canadian adults.

**Table 6**
**Percentage of the population employed, by age group and sex, 2001**

| | Haitian community | | | Total Canadian population | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| | | | percentage | | | |
| **Age group** | | | | | | |
| 15 to 24 | 39.7 | 43.9 | 41.8 | 56.1 | 55.6 | 55.9 |
| 25 to 44 | 77.0 | 67.9 | 71.8 | 85.6 | 75.2 | 80.3 |
| 45 to 64 | 71.8 | 61.2 | 66.0 | 74.8 | 60.8 | 67.7 |
| 65 and over | 12.0 | 1.6 | 5.1 | 13.0 | 4.8 | 8.4 |
| **Total** | **60.5** | **54.1** | **57.0** | **67.2** | **56.1** | **61.5** |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada.

As in the overall population, men of Haitian origin are more likely than their female counterparts to work outside the home. In 2001, 61% of men of Haitian origin aged 15 and over were part of the paid workforce, compared with 54% of women of Haitian origin in the same age group.

Both men and women of Haitian origin, though, are less likely to be employed than their counterparts in the general population. However, the gap between employment rates for men of Haitian origin and those in rest of the population is greater than that for women.

Canadians of Haitian origin make up a high proportion of all Canadians employed in manufacturing jobs. In 2001, 19% of all workers of Haitian origin were employed in manufacturing, compared with just 7% of all employed Canadians. At the same time, a relatively large proportion of Canadians of Haitian origin works in health-related professions. That year, 13% of Canadian workers of Haitian origin were employed in health occupations, compared with only 5% of the overall workforce. On the other hand, Canadians of Haitian origin are generally less likely than others to be employed in both management positions and in professional occupations in the natural and applied sciences.

Canadians of Haitian origin are also somewhat less likely than those in the overall workforce to be self-employed. In 2001, just 5% of Canadians of Haitian origin worked for themselves, compared with 12% of the overall Canadian workforce.

## Unemployment

Labour force participants[4] of Haitian origin are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as their counterparts in the general population. In 2001, 16.4% of labour force participants of Haitian origin were unemployed, compared with 7.4% of all Canadian labour force participants.

Young people of Haitian origin, especially young men, experience particularly high unemployment rates. In 2001, 24% of all male labour force participants of Haitian origin between the ages of 15 and 24 were unemployed, compared with 14% of all Canadians males in this age group. At the same time, 20% of female labour force participants of Haitian origin between the ages of 15 to 24 were unemployed, compared with 13% of their counterparts in the overall population.

## Income

The incomes of Canadians of Haitian origin are generally lower than those for the rest of the population. In 2000,[5] the average income from all sources for Canadians of Haitian origin aged 15 and over was just under $20,000, almost $10,000 less than the figure for the overall population.

**Table 7**
**Average incomes of the Haitian community and overall Canadian population, by age group and sex, 2000**

| | Haitian community | | | Total Canadian population | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| | | | dollars | | | |
| **Age group** | | | | | | |
| 15 to 24 | 8,821 | 8,610 | 8,716 | 11,273 | 9,046 | 10,182 |
| 25 to 44 | 24,056 | 21,284 | 22,475 | 40,450 | 26,306 | 33,308 |
| 45 to 64 | 28,187 | 21,781 | 24,699 | 46,955 | 26,767 | 37,026 |
| 65 and over | 23,118 | 14,691 | 17,429 | 30,775 | 19,461 | 24,437 |
| **Total** | **21,595** | **18,338** | **19,782** | **36,865** | **22,885** | **29,769** |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada.

As in the overall population, women of Haitian origin have lower incomes than their male counterparts. In 2000, the average income for women of Haitian origin aged 15 and over was just $18,300, while the average for men of Haitian origin was $21,600. However, the income gap between men and women of Haitian descent is considerably smaller than that in the overall population. That year, the incomes of women of Haitian origin were 85% those of their male counterparts, whereas the figure in the overall population was 62%.

Canadian seniors of Haitian origin also have relatively low incomes. In 2000, the average income from all sources for Canadians of Haitian origin aged 65 and over was $17,400, about $7,000 less than the figure for all seniors. As with all seniors in Canada, women in the Haitian community have lower incomes than their male counterparts. That year, the average income for women of Haitian origin aged 65 and over was just $14,700, compared with over $23,000 for senior men of Haitian origin.

4. Adults (aged 15 and over) who are employed or are looking for employment.
5. In the Census, people report their income for the previous year.

Canadians of Haitian origin receive about the same share of their income from earnings as does the overall population. In 2000, people of Haitian origin said that 76% of their income came from earnings, while for all Canadian adults the figure was 77%.

Canadians of Haitian origin, though, receive a somewhat greater share of their total income from government transfer programs than other adults. In 2000, 19% of the income of Canadians of Haitian origin aged 15 and over came from government transfers, while the average for all Canadian adults was 12%.

## Many with low incomes

Canadians of Haitian origin are much more likely to have incomes that fall below Statistics Canada's Low-income Cut-offs. In 2000, 39% of all those who reported they had Haitian origin lived in low-income situations, compared with 16% of the total Canadian population.

Children of Haitian origin living in Canada are particularly likely to live in low-income families. In 2000, 47% of children of Haitian origin under the age of 15 lived in families with incomes below the Low-income Cut-offs, compared with 19% of all children in Canada.

Unattached adults of Haitian origin are also very likely to have low incomes. In 2000, 61% of people of Haitian origin aged 15 and over who lived alone had low incomes, compared with only 38% of their counterparts in the overall population.

Seniors of Haitian origin who live alone are particularly likely to have low incomes. In 2000, 81% of unattached seniors with Haitian origins had incomes below the Low-income Cut-offs. This was double the number in the overall population in which 40% of all unattached Canadian seniors have incomes below the Low-income Cut-offs.

Unattached female seniors of Haitian origin are the most likely to have low incomes. In 2000, 88% of unattached women of Haitian origin aged 65 and over had incomes below the Low-income Cut-offs, compared with 60% of unattached male seniors of Haitian origin, and 43% of all unattached women aged 65 and over.

## Most feel a sense of belonging to Canada

According to the Ethnic Diversity Survey, a large majority of Canadians of Haitian origin feel a strong sense of belonging in Canada. In 2002, 70% of Canadians of Haitian origin said they had a strong sense of belonging in Canada. At the same time, 82% said that they had a strong sense of belonging to their ethnic or cultural group.

At the same time, though, many Haitian Canadians report they have experienced discrimination. Indeed, 45% of Canadians of Haitian origin reported that they had experienced discrimination or unfair treatment based on their ethnicity, race, religion, language or accent in the past five years, or since they arrived in Canada. A majority (75%) of those who had experienced discrimination said that they felt it was based on their race or skin colour, while 55% said that the discrimination took place at work or when applying for a job or promotion.

## Summary table

| | People of Haitian origin | | | Total Canadian population | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| **Total population in thousands** | **37.9** | **44.4** | **82.4** | **14,564.3** | **15,074.8** | **29,639.0** |
| Percentage change between 1996 and 2001 | -2.2 | -1.0 | -1.5 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 3.9 |
| Percentage immigrant | 52.7 | 60.4 | 56.8 | 18.0 | 18.7 | 18.4 |
| Percentage with Canadian citizenship | 88.7 | 89.0 | 88.9 | 94.9 | 94.5 | 94.7 |
| **Language** | | | | | | |
| Percentage able to speak English/French | 99.3 | 97.7 | 98.4 | 98.8 | 98.2 | 98.4 |
| Percentage speaking only non-official language at home | 13.0 | 15.3 | 14.2 | 9.6 | 9.9 | 9.7 |
| **Age distribution** | | | | | | |
| Percentage aged less than 15 | 30.9 | 26.3 | 28.4 | 20.2 | 18.6 | 19.4 |
| Percentage aged 25 to 44 | 25.1 | 28.8 | 27.1 | 30.4 | 30.6 | 30.5 |
| Percentage aged 65 and over | 3.8 | 6.8 | 5.4 | 10.9 | 13.4 | 12.2 |
| **Family status** | | | | | | |
| Percentage lone parents[1] | 5.4 | 31.0 | 20.2 | 2.4 | 9.7 | 6.2 |
| Percentage living alone[1] | 13.4 | 10.5 | 11.8 | 12.9 | 13.7 | 12.5 |
| Percentage seniors living alone | 14.8 | 21.4 | 19.3 | 16.8 | 38.3 | 28.9 |
| **Education, employment and income** | | | | | | |
| Percentage with univeristy degree[1] | 13.8 | 11.2 | 12.4 | 16.0 | 14.9 | 15.4 |
| Percentage employed[1] | 60.5 | 54.1 | 57.0 | 67.2 | 56.1 | 61.5 |
| Unemployment rate | 15.7 | 14.9 | 16.4 | 7.6 | 7.2 | 7.4 |
| Percentage with low income | 37.3 | 41.3 | 39.4 | 14.7 | 17.7 | 16.2 |

1. Include people aged 15 and over.

**Source**: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada.